

3 October 2008

Chem-Bio News

1. NEW DEVICE CAN SNIFF OUT DIRTY BOMBS, OTHER RADIATION: *"Technology developed in a federal laboratory in Livermore is being used in about 50 detectors around the country that can sniff out radioactive materials that could be used in a terror attack."*

2. FLU PANDEMIC WOULD 'OVERWHELM' U.S. HEALTH CARE SYSTEM, REPORT FINDS: *"In the case of an influenza pandemic, the U.S. health care system would be inadequately prepared to meet the needs of an infected population, according to a report released this week by a government watchdog agency."*

Chem-Demil News

1. STATE OPTS FOR CARBON FILTERS AS BEST AVAILABLE TECHNOLOGY AT UMCDF [UMATILLA CHEMICAL AGENT DISPOSAL FACILITY]: *"Recently, the Oregon Environmental Quality Commission (EQC) ruled that incineration, with the addition of enhanced (sulfur-impregnated) carbon filters to the Metal Parts Furnace, is the best available technology (BAT) for the treatment of mustard ton containers (TC) at Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility."*

2. PINE BLUFF CHEMICAL AGENT DISPOSAL FACILITY UPDATE: *"Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility is in a scheduled outage for changeover to mustard ton container disposal operations. Re-bricking activities for the Liquid Incinerator began in August and are now more than 85 percent complete. Maintenance on the Metal Parts Furnace (MPF), the MPF Pollution Abatement System and the Automatic Continuous Air Monitoring System also continues."*

3. RUSSIA ELIMINATED 30 PERCENT OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS STOCKPILES: *"Russia eliminated 29 percent of chemical weapons stockpiles or 11,648 tons of chemical agents as for October 1, 2008, according to Nikolai Khlebnikov, acting head of the Federal department for safe storage and elimination of chemical weapons."*

CB Daily Report

Chem-Bio News

NEW DEVICE CAN SNIFF OUT DIRTY BOMBS, OTHER RADIATION

By Mike Taugher
Contra Costa Times
October 1, 2008

"Technology developed in a federal laboratory in Livermore is being used in about 50 detectors around the country that can sniff out radioactive materials that could be used in a terror attack."

The equipment, which can be mounted in an SUV or set up at a stadium entrance, for example, can detect tiny amounts of radiation and determine what kind of radiation it is, which is important because authorities do not want to become alarmed about elements that are naturally occurring or used in medical devices.

At a news conference Wednesday at Lawrence Livermore Laboratory, officials demonstrated the equipment by driving a black Chevrolet Suburban past a small amount of radioactive material.

As the SUV passed the canister, its police alarms blared and a laptop on a nearby table flashed the correct element: cesium 137.

Outfitting the Suburban cost less than \$250,000, said Brian Adlawan, detection systems program manager for Textron Defense Systems, which sells the devices."

The full article can be found at: http://www.contracostatimes.com/search/ci_10613528?IADID=Search-www.contracostatimes.com-www.contracostatimes.com

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FLU PANDEMIC WOULD 'OVERWHELM' U.S. HEALTH CARE SYSTEM, REPORT FINDS

By Sara Sargent

Medill Reports

October 1, 2008

"In the case of an influenza pandemic, the U.S. health care system would be inadequately prepared to meet the needs of an infected population, according to a report released this week by a government watchdog agency.

The report, published by the Government Accountability Office, criticizes the Department of Health and Human Services' influenza pandemic preparedness, finding concerns about ineffective means of dispensing treatment and a lack of organization in getting the program up and running.

"HHS has made a lot of progress in preparedness planning, but it still need to continue actions and finalize some of the guidelines necessary for state and local health," GAO spokeswoman Marcia Crosse said.

The GAO recommends that HHS, the governmental body responsible for overseeing health services nationwide, improve guidance for officials to assure they react effectively during an outbreak."

"The GAO estimates that, in the midst of a crisis, a pandemic vaccine could take 20 weeks to 23 weeks to develop. Normally, in an unaccelerated, non-crisis situation, a vaccine takes six months to develop."

The full article can be found at: <http://news.medill.northwestern.edu/washington/news.aspx?id=99507&print=1>

The original GAO report can be found at: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d08671.pdf>

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Chem-Demil News

STATE OPTS FOR CARBON FILTERS AS BEST AVAILABLE TECHNOLOGY AT UMCDF [UMATILLA CHEMICAL AGENT DISPOSAL FACILITY]

US Army Chemical Materials Agency News Release

October 1, 2008

“Recently, the Oregon Environmental Quality Commission (EQC) ruled that incineration, with the addition of enhanced (sulfur-impregnated) carbon filters to the Metal Parts Furnace, is the best available technology (BAT) for the treatment of mustard ton containers (TC) at Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility. The EQC needed to rule on the technology to be used for mustard processing because levels of mercury were found to be higher than expected in the TCs.

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) thoroughly reviewed neutralization, incineration and the DAVINCH “contained explosives” technologies in order to determine the BAT treatment of mustard containing mercury. The DAVINCH system detonates ammunition in a vacuum chamber and uses high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA), carbon filters and a cold plasma arc unit to process any residual gases.

Safety, cost, schedule, public comments and other facets of all three technologies were studied before DEQ recommended to EQC that incineration with enhanced filters was the BAT.

Installing sulfur-impregnated carbon filters to the metal parts furnace existing pollution abatement system filtration system will cost approximately \$750,000, the DEQ estimates, compared to \$117 million to install neutralization technology and \$40 million to install DAVINCH.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.cma.army.mil/fndocumentviewer.aspx?docid=003679035>

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PINE BLUFF CHEMICAL AGENT DISPOSAL FACILITY UPDATE

US Army Chemical Materials Agency News Release

October 2008

"Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility is in a scheduled outage for changeover to mustard ton container disposal operations. Re-bricking activities for the Liquid Incinerator began in August and are now more than 85 percent complete. Maintenance on the Metal Parts Furnace (MPF), the MPF Pollution Abatement System and the Automatic Continuous Air Monitoring System also continues."

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RUSSIA ELIMINATED 30 PERCENT OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS STOCKPILES

Itar-Tass

October 3, 2008

"Russia eliminated 29 percent of chemical weapons stockpiles or 11,648 tons of chemical agents as for October 1, 2008, according to Nikolai Khlebnikov, acting head of the Federal department for safe storage and elimination of chemical weapons."

"Khlebnikov specified 96.2 percent of chemical weapons stockpiles were eliminated at the Kambarka facility and 63.8 percent - at Maradykovo facility."

"Russia has to eliminate 45 percent of chemical weapons stockpiles by the end of 2009 or 18 thousand tons of chemical agents.

For this aim a new facility was launched in September 2008 in the village of Leonidovka in Penza region, and start-up work will begin at the facility in Shchuchye in Kurgan region in December.

The construction of two remaining facilities in Bryansk region and Udmurtia will be completed in 2009-2011, according to Khlebnikov.

In the meantime, Viktor Kholstov from the Industry and Trade ministry said Russia had to allocate additional 4.8 billion rubles for the elimination of chemical weapons in 2008 to compensate for insufficient foreign financing of the program."

Link not available.

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